Mr. Bernard Fensterwald
1000 Wilson Blvd., #900
Arlington, Va. 22209

8/18/84

Dear Bud,

When you return from your "Jules Vernes Sabbatical" I hope you are no longer 20,000 leagues under the sea. As you are in your letter of the 14th. I presume it is a form letter, and I think you should correct the error in it.

Your letter begins with the statement that there is "no single repository for major collections" of assassinations records and that your (pl) efforts to intersst any university failed.

Some years ago, as I believe you once knew, if you have forgotten it, the Wisconsin Historical Society, which is fairly prestigeous, asked me to deposit my records with it. After suffering acute thrombophletis in 1975 I did formalize the archive, with the then chncellor, later Wisconsin governor, and there is and has been and will be such an archive at a major university. Dr. David Wrone, the history professor in charge, has produced the only serious bibliography in the field. And the records are being and have been used by scholars. In addition, others have already deposited their records there. (All of mine will go there.) One such deposit consists are several dozen arranged bankers' boxes of news accounts and a considerable number of tapes. Some of my records are already there.

I do not disagree with your belief that Washington is a convenient location for such an archive, but as you have learned, no area university is interested. If your friend Ross Pritchard had manifested more interest when he was president of local Hood college, which is in the Washington area, my records would not be going to Wisconsin and probably there would not be such an archive there. There is one, with space provided by the university. I mean in place, now.

So while I have no objection at all to competition, although I believe that a single location would be more useful in the future, and as you know, you are welcome to copies of my records, for yourself or for your archive, I do not think that those you addressed should remain misinformed. Having sent them this letter, I believe that in fairness you ought inform them that there is an existing university archive, under a prestigeous historical society, which also will welcome the contribution of records.

My records will remain with me as long as I am able to use them. But they also are in regular use by others, as they always have been. These uses include providing the research materials for ongoing scholarly studies, one in the current Duke journal. Honors papers have been prepared and presented and others are being worked on now.

Despite the obvious problem coming from scholars and others in the future having to go to two widely-separated archives if they want full access to all that is available, if you believe a second one is required in the Washington area, I wish you all possible luck with it and hope that in the future some university will recognize the value and importance of all such records. Even the nuttiest, because they, too, have historical importances.

Best wishes and good luck!

Harold

Harold Weisberg